



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 19, 2003

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## **STATE CHILD SUPPORT OFFICIALS CRACK DOWN ON NON-PAYING PARENTS**

**THOUSANDS FACE LOSS OF LICENSES FOR FAILURE TO PAY**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— More than 20,000 parents who are not paying their child support face losing their driver's, professional and recreational licenses if they don't pay up soon. Notices are in the mail, warning delinquent parents that if they have more than \$500 in outstanding child support payments and the amount is more than 90 days past due, they could lose their licenses.

State law allows the Tennessee Department of Human Services, which administers the Child Support Program, to revoke the licenses of parents who fail to pay their court-ordered support.

"Our objective is not to punish parents, but to secure payment," said DHS Commissioner Gina Lodge. "It is simply unacceptable that children are suffering because their parents aren't paying court-ordered support. We hope these notices will send a wake-up call to parents that if they refuse to support their children, there will be consequences."

Last year, DHS collected more than \$415 million in child support payments. Tennessee has seen double-digit increases in collections over the last two years—twice the national average rate of increase. Despite these gains, said Lodge, thousands of children are not getting their support. There are more than 350,000 child support cases statewide.

Notices are being sent to more than 1,600 parents with professional licenses granted by the departments of Health, Commerce, Education and Safety. In addition, there are more than 22,000 personal driver's, professional, hunting and fishing licenses that are eligible to be revoked. The notices inform parents that they can prevent revocation if they contact their local child support office and set up a payment plan, appeal the revocation or repay the past due amount.

For more information on the Child Support Program, visit the DHS website at:  
<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/child-support.htm>

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